



Erie Voice Column

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Resurrection

By Pastor Bill Young

In Genesis chapter 22 we see a very pivotal event in the life of the patriarch Abraham. God asked him to go to a place called Moriah and offer his only son as a burnt sacrifice. The narrative tells us that he immediately set out for that place and arrived after 3 days. Upon seeing the designated mountain, he told two of his servants to stay behind and told them that he and his son would go up to worship *and would return* to them. We all know the rest of the story, how God provided a ram in the bush. All too often people get bogged down in a discussion about tests and trials and miss the real significance of this story.

God and Abraham had cut a covenant and were linked together through blood. If Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son on God's behalf, then God was bound by covenant to sacrifice His only Son for Abraham and his seed. When Abraham lifted the knife, he set in motion the sacrifice of Christ which would take place on Golgotha two thousand years later.

Hebrews 11: 17-19 tells us Abraham sacrificed his son *accounting that God was able to raise him from the dead*. This points to the resurrection of Christ and is essential to our Christian faith. Just as Abraham believed that without the resurrection of Isaac, God's promise would go unfulfilled, so we must know that if Christ had not risen from the dead, then God's promise of redemption would also be meaningless. Without the resurrection, Jesus would be just one of many dead religious icons with no life in them. Thank God for Abraham's faith, for we serve a living Christ who is not only risen, but alive and well and demonstrating His life in the earth by the Holy Spirit through his body the church.



823 CHERRY STREET
ERIE, PA. 16502

P. (814) 456-1807
byoung@mgcconline.org
www.mgcconline.org